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Dated: August 14, 2008

Signature: /Mark D. Russett/  
Mark D. Russett, Reg. No. 41,281

Docket No.: 61646(70904)  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Shunichi Shiozawa et al.

Application No.: 10/501,259

Confirmation No.: 7532

Filed: July 9, 2004

Art Unit: 1634

For: DISEASE SUSCEPTIBILITY GENE FOR  
RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS, PROTEIN  
THEREOF, EVALUATION METHOD AND  
EVALUATION KIT FOR EVALUATING  
ONSET POSSIBILITY OF RHEUMATOID  
ARTHRITIS BY USING THOSE, AND  
REMEDY AND CURING MEDICINE FOR  
RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Examiner: S. C. Pohnert

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MS AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants are in receipt of the final Office Action mailed on May 14, 2008 (the "Office Action"), in the above-referenced patent application, and now submit this response. This paper is believed to be timely filed.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS** are reflected in the listing of claims beginning at page 2 of this paper.

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS** begin at page 3 of this paper.